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SOUTH ASIA

SPECIAL CONSUMER NOTICE
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NOTICE

On 1 June 1987 FBIS will begin publication of reorganized and renamed DAILY REPORTS. The following list details the changes being made in the eight volumes.

I.	CHINA DAILY REPORT	Contents unchanged
II.	EASTERN EUROPE DAILY REPORT	Contents unchanged
III.	SOVIET UNION DAILY REPORT	Contents unchanged
IV.	EAST ASIA DAILY REPORT	Renamed; formerly ASIA & PACIFIC DAILY REPORT; contents unchanged
V.	NEAR EAST & SOUTH ASIA DAILY REPORT	Renamed; formerly MIDDLE EAST & AFRICA DAILY REPORT; contents include: Middle East & South Asia Review Inter-Arab Affairs Islamic Affairs Palestinian Affairs OPEC Affairs South Asian Regional Affairs Arab Africa Algeria Chad Egypt Libya Mauritania Morocco Sudan Tunisia Western Sahara Arabian Peninsula Bahrain Kuwait Oman PDRY Qatar Saudi Arabia United Arab Emirates Yemen Arab Republic Iraq Israel Jordan Lebanon Syria South Asia Afghanistan Bangladesh India Iran Maldives Nepal & Bhutan Pakistan Sri Lanka
VI.	LATIN AMERICA DAILY REPORT	Contents unchanged

(continued on back of report)

FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

23 APRIL 1987

PNC Session

Reaction to Moroccan Boycott — The official PNC spokesman expressed regret over Moroccan King Hassan II's decision to boycott the PLO, WAKH reported. Noting that the PLO had officially invited the Polisario leader to attend the PNC, the spokesman stressed that the PNC rejects any interference in its internal affairs. In related remarks carried by Algiers radio, Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf said Hassan's decision was an "emotional reaction which went beyond its limit," and he pointed out that the PLO did not sever relations with Morocco over the latter's contacts with Israel. The radio also broadcast PFLP leader George Habash's view that Morocco's stand should not be regretted because this will help crystallize revolutionary attitudes in the PLO, which should promote relations "with the masses, not the regimes."

PNC Work — A Baghdad Voice of PLO radio report on work at the 22 April session noted that committees were continuing discussions on political, organizational, financial, and social matters. Speeches were heard from fraternal and friendly delegations and the PNC resolved to accept the Palestinian Communist Party's representation in the PNC. PLO Political Department chief Faruq Qaddumi presented a report on the events of the last 2 years, which he described as a period of "national suffering" as a result of the divisions among Palestinian factions, Algiers radio reported. The radio also stated that private discussions between the different factions have succeeded in "totally settling" differences, adding that the question of relations with Egypt has been resolved "once and for all."

In a meeting with an Egyptian delegation at the PNC, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat expressed gratitude for the "warm and positive" message he had received from Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, MENA disclosed. Algiers Voice of Palestine radio noted that 'Arafat also held talks with Bulgarian President Todor Zhivkov, who concluded a 3-day official visit to Algeria 22 April.

Israel

Raid in Lebanon — Israeli helicopters attacked "terrorist" targets south of Sidon early 23 April, hitting a building that served as a base for carrying out attacks against Israel, Jerusalem radio reported. Three people were wounded in the attack, according to the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon. Israeli planes subsequently distributed leaflets in southern Lebanon warning inhabitants that the IDF will resort to sharp measures to curb terrorist activity, IDF radio noted.

Peres on Peace Prospects -- Jordan will enter into direct negotiations after an international opening "without any connection with the PLO," Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres predicted in a 22 April Jerusalem television interview. He contended that "the issue of non-PLO representation has become a must for Jordan and an issue that will, moreover, also be supported by Syria." Reaffirming Israel's refusal to accept a separate Palestinian delegation at an international conference, Peres stressed that Israel will not attend a conference where anyone tries to coerce it, and he added that Soviet officials have told him they understand that an imposed solution would not be acceptable.

IDF radio said the interview marks the start of Peres' political campaign over his peace plan, noting that the national unity government is likely to fall if the plan is not accepted. In a related development, Jerusalem radio stated that the Israeli agriculture minister's current visit to Cairo is aimed at convincing President Husni Mubarak that the way is now open for direct talks with Jordan under some kind of international umbrella. The minister was received by Mubarak and the Egyptian prime minister 22 April, according to MENA.

Release of Palestinians — Eight out of nine Palestinian leaders arrested during recent West Bank violence were freed 21 April, according to a Palestinian source cited by AFP. However, some 100 Palestinians remain in custody in connection with "terrorist" activities that took place the night of 12 April.

Syria

President Hafiz al-Asad left Damascus for an "official friendly visit" to the USSR, TASS reported 23 April, adding that he is accompanied by Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Defense Minister Mustafa Talas, and other officials.

The previous day the president received Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam, who delivered a message from Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i, Tehran radio reported. The talks emphasized the two countries' identity of views and "firm support" for their joint stands, the radio noted. President al-Asad also received a Saudi prince who delivered a message from King Fahd, Riyadh radio reported, noting that the prince termed the meeting "more than cordial."

Iran-Iraq War

Iraqi warplanes carried out a "destructive strike" on the main production unit of the Ardeshir oil field in the Gulf and hit a pumping building at the Ahvaz No 2 oil field, according to a communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio.

Iraq

In remarks cited by INA, President Saddam Husayn declared that "Zionist-American-Iranian military relations" were not aimed at creating a balance between the warring countries but at realizing "wicked goals" at the expense of Iraq and all Arabs. Speaking on the occasion of Air Force Day, the Iraqi president emphasized the importance of mutual respect in international relations and noted that his country "could become a friend" to

the United States if it realizes that Iraq cannot be weakened by "covert attempts."

Air Force Commander Hamid Sha'ban charged that the United States and Israel continue to supply weapons and "military expertise" to Iran, INA reported. The commander alleged that Eastern and Western countries which claim neutrality are selling arms to Iran and threatened to release documentation that the leaders of such countries are "liars," AFP reported.

Iran

It is "futile" to hope for the success of an international conference on free navigation and security in the Gulf, according to a Foreign Ministry statement reported by IRNA. In fact, superpower "interference" in the area will only increase the danger of regional clashes, the statement declared.

Afghanistan

Cooperation With USSR — Seyyed Amanuddin Amin, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers and K.F. Katushev, chairman of the USSR Committee for Foreign Economic Relations, signed a protocol on studying joint cooperation to construct production projects, Kabul radio reported. After joining the DRA leadership and various dignitaries at a ceremony to commemorate Lenin's birth anniversary, the Soviet delegation was seen off at the airport by Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, chairman of the Council of Ministers, and other officials.

Mujahidin Position — Islamic Party leader Gulbuddin Hikmatyar told a Riyadh press conference reported by SPA that the mujahidin will accept nothing less than the total withdrawal of Soviet troops and free elections under the supervision of a temporary government. Gulbuddin thanked Saudi Arabia for its "generous backing" and declared that, following the "Soviet-declared truce," mujahidin activity has been more vigorous than ever. He noted that Soviet forces have recently suffered "grave losses" in men and material, including 187 aircraft in the last 3 months.

Cyprus Suspects

Arab suspects arrested in connection with the 20 April attack on two Britons are members of pro-Libyan organizations and are suspected of involvement in an August 1986 attack on the Akrotiri Base, according to the Nicosia paper *O Filelevtheros*.

FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

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Further Reportage on Visit of USSR's Katushev

Attends Lenin Ceremony

LD222236 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 21 Apr 87

[Excerpts] A glorious meeting was held this afternoon by the PDPA Central Committee and the DRA Peace, Solidarity, and Friendship Organization to mark and celebrate the 117th anniversary of the birth of V.I. Lenin, the leader of the world's workers and toilers, in the Storay Palace of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Attending this reception were: Comrade Najib, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee; Haji Mohammad Chamkani, acting president of the DRA Revolutionary Council; Comrade Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers; several members of the Politburo and Secretariat of the PDPA Central Committee; Abdorrahim Hatef, chairman of the Central Council of the National Fatherland Front; members of the PDPA Central Committee; several members of the Revolutionary Council and of the Council of Ministers; several members of the Central Council of the National Fatherland Front and of the Supreme Commission for National Reconciliation; several activists of the party and social organizations; officials and representatives of the Armed Forces; and K.F. Katushev, chairman of the USSR State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations; and Pavel Petrovich Mozhayev, ambassador and extraordinary representative of the Soviet Union in the DRA; and ambassadors and members of the friendly countries' diplomatic corps.

At the beginning of the meeting, Comrade Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand spoke on the occasion of the 117th anniversary of the birth of V.I. Lenin, leader of the world proletariat. Mentioning the struggles and significant and historic service of V.I. Lenin, Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand said:

We have gathered here today to express our profound respect on the 117th birthday anniversary of mankind's genius, V.I. Lenin. [passage omitted]

Comrade Keshtmand added: Today, Lenin's thoughts on peace are much closer and better understood to us Afghans. The 117th birthday anniversary of V.I. Lenin is celebrated in the DRA under new situations and conditions. Our party and government, which announced the policy of national reconciliation on 15 January — which is based on a unilateral cease-fire — have achieved specific successes. The struggle for the policy of national reconciliation in the country and in the level of every province, district, sub-district, and village is of real vital importance. The principle of reconciliation can save our people from bloody annihilation, pave the way for achieving the party's objectives and revolutionary sovereignty, and make the country and people prosperous.

In the struggle to achieve these objectives, we invite people to peace based on the worthy traditions of our people, respect for the religion of Islam, and on the basis of international revolutionary experiences. [passage omitted]

Cooperation Protocol Signed

LD222309 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 21 Apr 87

[Text] A protocol on studying Afghan-Soviet cooperation in the construction of production projects, including the private sector, was signed today between the relevant authorities of the DRA and the USSR at the headquarters of the Council of Ministers in Kabul.

According to this protocol it was agreed that technical and economic feasibility studies will be carried out on 171 projects proposed by Afghanistan, including 38 projects in the private and mixed sector, and 12 joint Afghan-Soviet [words indistinct] in the private sector. The agreement will be signed in due course between the two sides.

According to a *Bakhtar* report, the protocol was signed on the Afghan side by Seyyed Amanuddin Amin, vice-chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers and chairman of the Economic Consultative Council, and on the Soviet side by K.F. Katushev, chairman of the USSR State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations, in the presence of Pavel Petrovich Mozhayev, the Soviet ambassador and extraordinary representative in Kabul. The documents were exchanged. A number of Afghan and Soviet officials were also present.

Concludes Visit, Departs

LD222033 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 22 Apr 87

[Text] Comrade K.F. Katushev, chairman of the USSR State Committee for Foreign Relations, who paid an official visit to Kabul with a delegation at the invitation of the DRA government, left for home today.

At Kabul airport the delegation was seen off by Comrade Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, member of the PDPA Central Committee and chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers; Mohammad Aziz, deputy chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers and head of the State Planning Committee; Sayd Amanoddin Amin, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers; members of the Council of Ministers; Pavel Petrovich Mozhayev, ambassador extraordinary of the USSR in the DRA; and members of the Soviet Embassy.

Najibullah Speaks at Steel Plant Commissioning

LD211105 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0424 GMT
21 Apr 87

[Text] Kabul, April 21, *Bakhtar* — A big steel melting and cast iron moulding plant built in the Jangalak factory complex, was commissioned today, with the "De Khalko Doosty" and the Red Banner.

In the inaugural ceremony, Najib, general secretary of the PDPA, CC said""We are inaugurating the new plant on the threshold of the international workers day, that is the first of May. You have prepared a valuable gift (?for) this day."

Today, he added, the steel melting plant is being inaugurated in the Jangalak factory complex, which has been honoured twice with medals. This new plant is the only plant for melting steel in the country, and with this, a new page is opened in the history of industrial growth in the country.

De Khalko Doosty (people's friendship) orders were conferred by Najib to the outstanding workers and employees of the Jangalak factory complex and Afghan construction unit, who have shown active interest in the construction and installation of the expanding part of the complex.

The construction and installation of the steel melting and cast iron moulding plant, have been carried out by the Afghan construction unit with the technical and economic assistance of the Soviet Union. The plant is having the most modern and sophisticated technology which will play a significant role in the future growth of the metal industry in the country. The annual production capacity of the plant is one thousand six hundred tons of steel, five hundred tons of cast iron and twenty tons of coloured metals.

Weapons, Ammunition Seized in Kabul City
LD221925 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 22 Apr 87

[Text] A large quantity of weapons and ammunition which had been transported by truck — license plate No 11556 — to Kabul for the use of extremist opposition elements, was discovered and seized today in the southern part of Kabul city by the country's security forces with the cooperation of local people.

The BIA reports that the weapons and ammunition, consisting of 26 Chinese-made Kalashnikovs, 5 rocket launchers, 2 Egyptian 0.303 rifles, 17 kg [words indistinct] explosive substance, and over 10,000 rounds of various ammunition, were cleverly concealed in the top section of the lorry, and were intended to be placed at the disposal of extremist opposition group elements. The report adds that the seized explosive substance were detonated outside the city by Kabul garrison command.

The country's security forces profoundly appreciates the people's cooperation in discovering these weapons and ammunition, and asks all peace-loving compatriots (?to report) and raise the matter with security organs of the national reconciliation commissions when coming across such cases, in order to prevent the commission of crimes by extremists, and the disruption of the peaceful atmosphere of work in the country.

'Extremists' Defeated in Logar Province
LD222251 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0439 GMT 22 Apr 87

[Text] Kabul, April 21, *Bakhtar* -- Misusing the ceasefire observed by the armed forces of the DRA, the criminals belonging to the opposite extremist groups planned to indulge in destructive actions in the suburbs of Logar Province.

Based on the demand of the local people and Commission for National Reconciliation and observing the ceasefire, the armed forces entered the region and persuaded the extremists to lay down their arms and to surrender themselves.

Disregarding the ceasefire, the extremists attacked and fired on the armed forces. The armed forces then launched a counter-attack and seized their positions. As a result, three ringleaders of the extremist groups were eliminated.

According to another report, the Armed Forces of the DRA, in total observance of the ceasefire, evacuated an ammunition depot of the extremists, including "Ingar" [as received] missile and its launcher, in Shakardara district of Kabul Province.

Shanti Bahini Rebels Kill 14 Within 1-Week Period

BK220128 Hong Kong AFP in English 0034 GMT 22 Apr 87

[Text] Dhaka, April 21 (AFP) — Tribal insurgents ambushed a bus in south-eastern Bangladesh Tuesday, killing one person and wounding four others, police sources said.

The Shanti Bahini insurgents also kidnapped several passengers who were travelling from the port of Chittagong, after attacking the bus near the town of Mahachari, police said. The insurgents are claiming local autonomy in tribal areas bordering on India.

The latest incident follows the shooting, on Sunday, of a Bengali resident after a raid in Khagrachari region in which several houses were burnt down. Last week, insurgents abducted 14 Bengali Moslem woodcutters killing 13 of them.

In the past seven years, according to official figures, about 850 people have died in incidents involving Shanti Bahini insurgents, whom Dakha accuses of operating from sanctuaries in India.

Foreign Minister Leaves for Saudi Arabia 20 Apr

BK201551 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 20 Apr 87

[Text] Foreign Minister, Humayun Rashid Chowdhury, left Dhaka today for Jeddah on a 3-day visit to Saudi Arabia. Talking to newsmen at the airport, he said he will discuss with Saudi leaders matters of mutual interest. Two sides will also discuss the efforts for ending the Iran-Iraq war and the forthcoming Islamic foreign ministers conference in Jordan.

International Group Approves $2 Billion in Aid

AU221952 Paris AFP in English 1946 GMT 22 Apr 87

[Text] Paris, April 22 (AFP) — A consortium grouping some of the world's leading industrialized countries and international organizations has approved economic aid to Bangladesh of just over two billion dollars in fiscal 1987-1988, Finance Minister Mohammad Syeduzzama announced here Wednesday.

He said Bangladesh's benefactors reached agreement on the amount, which in real terms represents a two per cent drop over the previous year, during a two-day meeting here under the auspices of the World Bank.

International assistance to Bangladesh, one of the world's poorest countries, accounts for 50 per cent of the nation's public resources. With a population of 100 million, the country's per capita gross national product stands at around 150 dollars.

Mr. Syeduzzama said he was satisfied with the aid commitment, noting that the portion allotted to major projects, 1.2 billion dollars, was considerably higher than the figure sought by his government. The 0.8 billion dollars earmarked for food assistance and import costs was slightly below the requested amount, he said.

Among the major projects to be supported are a bridge over the Jamuna River, linking the western and eastern parts of the country, as well as efforts aimed at improving rural infrastructure.

The Bangladesh aid consortium groups several Western European countries, such as France, West Germany and Britain, in addition to Japan, Canada and the United States. International organizations such as the Asian Development Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the United Nations Development Program also participate.

On Tuesday an estimated 20 to 30 members of the Bangladesh Solidarity Committee staged a demonstration before World Bank offices here to protest what they said was a misuse of international assistance by certain administrative bodies in the country.

Spokesman Rejects PRC's Border Violation Allegations

BK221559 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 22 Apr 87

[Text] It has been officially stated in New Delhi that there were no exercises by the Indian troops on the India-China border in the recent months. A spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry was replying to queries this evening on a statement made by the official spokesman of the Chinese Foreign Ministry alleging that the Indian troops have repeatedly crossed the line of control.

The spokesman said Indian troops have strict instructions not to cross the border. There is, therefore, no question of our troops nibbling at or crossing the India-China border.

The spokesman also described as incorrect that Indian aircraft have violated China's airspace. He added that it is our policy to resolve all issues with China, as with other countries, through peaceful means and through dialogues and discussions.

Lok Sabha Members See China, U.S. as 'Serious Threat'

BK221254 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 22 Apr 87

[Text] The need to strengthen and modernize the Armed Forces to meet the threat to the security environment of the country was highlighted by the members in the Lok Sabha today.

Taking part in the discussion on the demand for the grants of the External Affairs Ministry, most of them wanted the government to reconsider its nuclear option in view of the reports that Pakistan now has capability to manufacture nuclear weapon.

They also expressed serious concern over the induction of sophisticated arms into Pakistan by the United States. China and the United States pose a serious threat to the security of India, they said.

Reconsideration of Nuclear Option

BK221638 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 22 Apr 87

[Text] The need to strengthen and modernize the Armed Forces to meet the threat to the country's security was highlighted by the members in the Lok Sabha toda. They were taking part in the discussion on demand for the grants of the External Affairs Ministry.

Most of them wanted the government to reconsider its nuclear option in view of the reports that Pakistan has now capability to make a nuclear weapon.

They also expressed serious concern over induction of sophisticated arms into Pakistan by the United States.

The members said the military links between Pakistan, China, and the United States pose a serious threat to the security of the nation. However, an opposition member favored a joint defense strategy for the Indian subcontinent.

Referring to the border dispute with China, some of the members wanted a peaceful negotiated settlement but without compromising India's territorial integrity.

They also favored a political settlement of the ethnic problem in Sri Lanka.

Upper House Condemns Sri Lanka Blast, Air Strikes

BK230905 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Text] In the Rajya Sabha today, several members expressed concern over the situation in Sri Lanka and demanded immediate action by India to prevent the killing of Tamil civilians there. The matter was raised by Mr V. Gopalaswami, DMK.

Expressing strong condemnation of the explosion that took place in Colombo on Tuesday, he also protested against the Sri Lankan Government's decision to resort to aerial attack on the northern province of Trincomalee.

The Government of India should launch a protest immediately against the air force bombing and ask Sri Lanka to stop it forthwith.

Similar views were expressed by members from both sides of the house. One of them wanted the government to come out with a statement on the subject.

Foreign Minister Addresses Joint Parliament Session

BK201653 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 20 Apr 87

[Text] The joint session of Parliament in Islamabad today began debate on the country's foreign policy. Inagurating the debate, Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan explained the basic elements of the country's foreign policy and said its main purposes are to foster unity in the Islamic world, uphold the nonaligned principles, seek a political settlement of the Afghanistan issue and an end to Iran-Iraq war, and to work for the supremacy of peace and justice in the world.

On the Afghanistan issue, the foreign minister said that the settlement of the problem depends on Moscow. He expressed the hope the Soviet Union will take positive steps keeping in mind the decisions of the international community. He reaffirmed Pakistan seeks a just and immediate solution of the issue in accordance with the accepted principles which are in conformity with the geopolitical situation of the region. He said Pakistan is awaiting the timetable for the foreign troops' pullout from Afghanistan so that an agreement can be reached in this regard.

Referring to violations of Pakistan's territorial borders and the Kabul regime's bombing of Pakistani territory, the foreign minister said they aim to force Pakistan to abandon its principled stand on Afghanistan. He reiterated that Pakistan cannot be browbeaten by force or pressure.

The foreign minister also focused on Pakistan's relations with big powers and its neighbors. On Pakistan-USSR relations he said Pakistan has made efforts to establish normal friendly relations with the Soviet Union despite the Afghan issue.

On relations with the United States, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan said Pakistan's relations with that country are based on mutual respect and a common desire for to the peace and stability in this region. Referring to the new aid package, he expressed the hope that U.S. Congress will approve it. He reaffirmed Pakistan will not bargain its sovereignty in exchange for aid.

He also denied Pakistan is providing bases to the United States or the latter is preventing Pakistan from reaching a solution on the Afghanistan issue.

He said that Pakistan's relations with the PRC are a glowing example of good-neighborliness, cooperation, and friendship.

The foreign minister said Pakistan desires to establish tension-free relations with India and wants to seek a peaceful settlement of the Jammu and Kashmir issue in accordance with the Simla agreement and the UN resolutions. He referred to India's negative attitude, including its propaganda against Pakistan's peaceful nuclear program and limited purchase of defensive weapons, and stated Pakistan cannot ignore this. He said Pakistan has presented concrete proposals for reducing the number of weapons and military spending and for implementing a no-war pact. He said that India should respond positively to these proposals. The foreign minister said Pakistan has made several proposals in this regard at the highest levels and at international forums.

The foreign minister categorically stated that Pakistan does not possess any nuclear weapon nor does it want to develop such a weapon. Pakistan is ready to take every step to check proliferation of nuclear weapons along with other South Asian countries.

Eight members took part in the morning session while four members have taken part thus far in this afternoon's session. These members congratulated the foreign minister and said the country's foreign policy is being pursued on correct lines. They said the success of this foreign policy is reflected in the respect shown to Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo during his recent visit to various countries abroad. These members also stressed the need to continue efforts to normalize relations with India on the basis of sovereign equality. They also emphasized continuing the peaceful nuclear program in order to meet primary energy needs.

The members who took part in today's debate are Maulana Kausar Niazi, Begum Salma Ahmad, Syed Abida Hussain, Allama Abd Mustafa Al-Azhari, Javed Jabbar, Maulana Gauhar Rahman, Shad Mohammad Khan, Bashir Randhawa, Javed Hashmi, Hamza, Dr Mian Zulfiqar Ali Barq, and Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali.

New Oil Site Expected To Produce 2,700 Barrels Daily

BK210105 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 20 Apr 87

[Text] Oil has been found at Chak Naurang in Punjab's Chakwal district. Reporting this information, the state minister for petroleum and natural resources, Chaudhary Nisar Ali Khan, told newsmen in Islamabad this afternoon it is estimated that up to 2,700 barrels of oil can extracted from that site daily. He said that the oil find in the Potwar area assumes significance in the wake of the oil find at (Gurnal) in February 1984.

In reply to a question, he said a correct estimate of the oil reserves at the new site will be made within the next 6 to 7 months.

SRI LANKA

Continuing Reportage on Response to Colombo Bombing

Communique on Curfew Issued

BK221547 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1535 GMT 22 Apr 87

[Text] Here is a government communique: The curfew now in force in the administrative districts of Colombo and Gampaha will be lifted at 0500 tomorrow. The curfew, however, will not be lifted in the police areas of Pettah and Marbana tomorrow morning. The curfew now in force will continue till 0500 on Friday the 24th in the police area of Pettah and Marbana. The curfew will be reimposed at 0900 tomorrow the 23d in all areas within the Colombo Municipal Council limits and will continue until 0500 on Friday the 24th. People working in Colombo are advised to remain at home tomorrow.

In Trincomalee District, the curfew will be imposed from 1800 tomotrow, Thursday, until 0600, Friday, the 24th.

Delhi on 'Severe Bombing'

BK221623 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 22 Apr 87

[Excerpts] The Sri Lankan Air Force carried out two large-scale air raids over suspected militant hideouts in Jaffna Peninsula today. Severe bombing by planes and intense strafing by helicopters took place over Jaffna town, Navatkuli, and Kankesanthurai. Reports speak of very heavy casualties. Independent sources say at least 200 people would have perished in the raids. Official sources in Colombo claimed 80 militants were killed and an equal number injured in the attack. The raid coincided with the weekly cabinet meeting which, according to informed sources, was unanimous in endorsing strong action against militants. [passage omitted]

At least 35 security personnel have been killed since last night in separate incidents in Trincomalee and Jaffna. Eighteen died in a landmine blast in Pulmudai in Trincomalee District. Seventeen perished when militants attacked Kankesanthurai army camp last night.

Meanwhile, the Sri Lankan Broadcasting Corporation said 105 bodies of yesterday's bomb blast at the central bus stand in Colombo have been identified and have been handed over to the relatives. Seventy- five more bodies remain to be identified. This brings the death toll in yesterday's blast to 180.

Army Repulses Attack on Camp

BK221658 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 1631 GMT 22 Apr 87

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, April 22 *(Lanka Puwath)* — The Sri Lanka Rupavahini Corporation (Television) in its evening news bulletin tonight announced quoting the Media Centre in Colombo that the Security Forces had repulsed an attack by terrorists on the Kankesanthurai Security Forces camp this morning killing 18 terrorists. Four soldiers were also killed, it added.

Air Force Raids Tamil Camps

BK230304 Colombo International Service in English 0230 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Text] The Sri Lanka Air Force launched a series of attacks on the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] and EROS [Eelam Revolutionary Organization of Students] terrorist camps in the Jaffna Peninsula yesterday.

The Air Force aircraft attacked ammunition factories and explosive (?dumps) of the LTTE and EROS [words indistinct]. The reconnaissance flights for the Air Force later established that the raids had been successful. More than 80 terrorists are believed killed or wounded in the air raid.

It is possible that civilians in the immediate vicinity of the (terrorist) factories (?have been killed). The government has appealed to the residents in Jaffna not to be in the vicinity of terrorist camps.

TULF Urges Cease-Fire

BK230856 Hong Kong AFP in English 0849 GM 23 Apr 87

[Excerpts] New Delhi, April 23 (AFP) — Sri Lanka's main Tamilpolitical party called Thursday for "a genuine ceasefire" between the government and Tamil separatists on the island where nearly 400 people have died in the past week. The moderate Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF) asked "everybody concerned to use India's offices to bring about a genuine ceasefire" to end the conflict between Tamil seperatists and the government."

"There has been carnage on both sides and no one can be happy at what is happening," TULF chief Appapillai Amirthalingam said when contacted by telephone in Madras, capital of India's Tamil Nadu State. He blamed Colombo for the recent escalation in violence, saying it had intensified military operations against the Tamils. [passage omitted]

EROS leader V. Balakumar said air force bombers were attacking several areas in Tamil-dominated Jaffna, but claimed that the targets were civilian. Mr Balakumar told *Agence France-Presse*: "We believe about 200 people could have died, but there is no precise figure." He said "serious bombardment" had been reported at Navatkuli, Manthikai, Point Pedro and Kaithodi and the army had begun shelling from five camps in the north. "But none of our guerrilla base has been attacked."

Sri Lanka's national security minister Lalith Athulathmudali said in Colombo that the air force had hit targets at Chavakachcheri, Point Pedro, Mandi and Palally, all on the Jaffna Peninsula.

The LTTE, the most powerful of the five major Tamil groups fighting for a homeland in the island, could not be reached for comment. Both LTTE and EROS — and a rival Marxist organisation, the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF) — have denied involvement in Tuesday's bomb blast in central Colombo in which a least 11 died and nearly 200 were wounded.

LTTE, EROS Connection 'Confirmed'

BK231038 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 1006 GMT 23 Apr 87

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Excerpt] Colombo, April 23 *(Lanka Puwath)* — Official sources disclosed that a Tamil terrorist radio intercept soon after last Tuesday evening's bomb explosion confirmed that the LTTE and EROS gangs of terrorists were responsible for last Tuesday's (April 21) bombing near the central bus stand Pettah which killed 106 innocent civilians, most of them commuters, office workers, returning home.

The sources said a radio message being transmitted by the terrorists from Jaffna to Madras soon after the bombing gave LTTE and EROS terrorists based in Madras the news that the 'operation' had been completed successfully. [passage omitted]

Air Strikes on Rebels Continue

BK231108 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 1021 GMT 23 Apr 87

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, April 23 *(Lanka Puwath)* — Further air attacks have been carried out on the terrorist camps in Jaffna, the Sri Lanka Boardcasting Corporation announced in its afternoon news bulletin today quoting the Media Center. The attacks were being directed against the LTTE and EROS terrorist camps.

The Air Force reported that those attacks were directed towards the targets every hour and the attacks were being successful.

Yesterday too, the terrorist camps in the Jaffna Peninsula were attacked continuously.

About 100 terrorists are reported to have been killed.

No incidents have been reported today in many parts of the country, except for the isolated incident in Borella in Colombo.

The Media Centre reported that calm prevailed in all areas.

Meanwhile, the Minister of National Security, Lalith Athulathmudali, who made a statement in Parliament this morning said that a group of persons who stormed the morgue were dispersed by the police using tear gas.

Government To Eradicate All Rebels

BK231345 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 1307 GMT 23 Apr 87

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, April 23 *(Lanka Puwath)* — The Sri Lankan Minister of Lands, Land Development and Mahaweli Development, Gamini Dissanayake, stated in Parliament today that the government had decided to completely destroy all the terrorist camps in the Jaffna Peninsula.

Participating on the debate to extend the state of emergency, the minister said that eradication of terrorism could not be delayed at such a critical juncture when innocent civilians were being killed. The government is still ready for a negotiated settlement. But, the terrorists and uncompromising group are only interested in killing innocent people and destroying the country.

Monks' Protest March Blocked

BK230728 Hong Kong AFP in English 0708 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Excerpts] Colombo, April 23 (AFP) — Heavily-armed riot police prevented a march Thursday by about 400 Buddhist monks and students calling for the Sri Lankan Government to resign over the killing of hundreds of civilians, witnesses said. The monks, wearing orange robes, wanted to hand a petition over to President Junius Jayewardene demanding that the government resign for failing to protect innocent lives of all communities, the witnesses said.

The monks and students chanted the last rites, but did not try to break through the ranks of police, the front line carrying batons, the next two lines rifles and sub-machineguns, they added. [passage omitted]

A leader of the protest, S.P. Senaratne, who heads several right-wing Buddhist groups, said the government should resign and let the army take over. "The government has not been able to protect civilians as a democratic government should."

Additional private secretary to the president C.D. Silva accepted a petition from the monks, who then agreed to disperse. No one was hurt in the demonstration although there was a lot of jostling and the protestors demanded to be allowed to march until the president agreed to send an envoy, witnesses said.

Analysts noted that monks are a powerful lobby here.

Voice of Tamil Eelam on Retaliation

BK221540 (Clandestine) Voice of Tamil Eelam in English 1321 GMT 22 Apr 87

[Text] This is the Voice of Tamil Eelam calling listeners in India, Sri Lanka, and Tamil Eelam. In the light of recent developments in the neighboring states of Sri Lanka and Tamil Eelam, this radio station will stay on the air until further notice.

This morning Sri Lanka Air Force helicopters carried out air raids on targets in Velvettiturai, Point Pedro, Chavakachcheri, and other parts of the Jaffna peninsula.

The Sri Lanka Government in a statement issued at 1300 [0730 GMT] today said that these air raids were directed at the hideouts of LTTE and EROS groups and thus a few civilians were among those who suffered casualties.

The government claims that 80 freedom fighters were killed. Unconfirmed reports from Jaffna say 15-20 freedom fighters may have died so far. There are no details yet of civilian casualties.

It is quite clear that these are retaliatory raids in the wake of Friday' killings of 126 bus passengers in the Trincomalee district and the death of over 150 people at the main Colombo bus station Tuesday evening. In the case of the bus attack, it has been established that the LTTE group led by Major (Poliman) was responsible. In the case of the Colombo blast, it has not yet been established clearly which group was responsible. We are also [words indistinct].

Independent sources in Tamil Nadu have said that it is possible that the TEA [Tamil Eelam Army] of Pangoda Maheshwaran could have been responsible with the assistance of the LTTE. The bomb was in [words indistinct] car which was parked outside a boutique near the Colombo central bus stand. It went off at around 1630 during the rush hour.

The Voice of Tamil Eelam has appealed time and time again to the LTTE in particular not to launch attacks against civilians, whether they are Sinhala, Tamil, or Muslim.

In this case the response of the Sri Lanka Government is a response that can be expected. It is a classical example of the Israeli tactic of open retaliation.

The Voice of Tamil Eelam has no details yet as to how many people have been killed in the air strikes. (?So far there is) no indication as to whether there are [words indistinct]. It, therefore, urged the people of the peninsula to take what precautions they can against air raids. We also suggest that wherever possible they move out of areas which are likely to be the targets of the Sri Lanka forces. It is not the time for (?elections). We, the people of Tamil Eelam, are faced with the greatest threat to our lives that we have ever faced so far. The Sri Lanka Government is under heavy pressure from the racist [words indistinct] and the military to conduct a sweeping attack on the peninsula which they hope [words indistinct] will crush the liberation fighters forever. While we know that this will not happen, we also know that the cost in lives and property in our homeland will be great.

In realistic terms we cannot hope for help from the international [words indistinct]. The capitalist regime in the United States has made a strong statement condemning the Liberation Tigers for not being willing to consider peace initiative. India has said nothing beyond condemning the massacre. We have warned over and over again that we cannot depend on anyone to come to our assistance. We, the [words indistinct] Tamils of Sri Lanka, will have to find our own solution to our own problems. The Politburo of the Communist Party of Tamil Eelam is in urgent session to strive and decide how we should react politically to the worsening situation.

Until then, this station is on the air to serve the people of Tamil Eelam in their hour of need. We will be monitoring news reports from all India Radio, BBC, SLBC [Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation], and Radio Moscow, and any other major radio stations to bring you the latest and the most up-to-date information on developments in Sri Lanka and Tamil Eelam. There will be news bulletins at 2-hour intervals and we shall also be keeping you informed about our plans and how to meet this crisis. Be calm and do everything possible to protect yourself.

Prime Minister Comments on Persian Gulf Security

LD231106 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Text] The government's Political Council met today to discuss Iranian-Soviet relations, and issues concerning the Persian Gulf.

After the session, Prime Minister Musavi said: The Persian Gulf will be secure for all, including Iran, or for no one. Those who create disturbances in the Persian Gulf with their actions must accept responsibility. The prime minister stressed: The way the Kuwaiti regime can save itself is not to help Iraq, or to have Kuwaiti ships fly U.S. and Soviet flags.

Foreign Ministry Issues Statement on Gulf Security

LD221919 Tehran IRNA in English 1901 GMT 22 Apr 87

[Text] Tehran, April 22, IRNA — The Iranian Foreign Ministry outlined in a statement here Wednesday the viewpoints of the Islamic republic on the security of the Persian Gulf and shipping in this region, as well as its views on the holding of an international peace conference on the issue.

The statement reiterated that the task of maintaining the security of the Persian Gulf rests solely with regional countries and that Iran which has the longest shore shoulders the greatest part of the task of maintaining security of the region.

"The Persian Gulf states will enjoy security as long as the security of the Islamic Republic is respected," the statement said.

The Foreign Ministry also cited the superpowers' interference in the Persian Gulf as the major reason for the tension and crisis in the region. "Interference of the superpowers in the region will not only increase the danger of regional clashes but will also be detrimental to those countries who requested protection from the superpowers."

Noting that the Iraqi-imposed war is a regional issue, the statement condemned any effort to internationalize it. It also criticized the U.N. Security Council for not having adopted a just stand towards the war Iraq imposed on Iran.

"Hope for the success of a proposed international peace conference on the issue is futile," the statement said, adding "Iraq's supporters would be best advised to cut off their assistance to the Baghdad Government if they are truly interested in finding an effective solution to the war, otherwise Iran feels duty-bound to root out the cause of aggression itself," the statement said.

Statement on Lebanese Hizballah Operation Issued

LD222202 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
2030 GMT 22 Apr 87

[Text] Our country's Foreign Ministry, in connection with the heroic operations of Lebanon's Islamic resistance against the Zionist enemy, has issued the following statement:

In His exalted name. Simultaneous with the secret efforts being made by world arrogance circles and Arab reaction aimed at compromising the sacred aspiration of Palestine, the Muslim combatants of Lebanon's Hizballah, in a heavy onslaught deep inside occupied Palestinian territory against the Zionist enemy, once again staged a glorious epic of self-sacrifice, selflessness, and resistance. This brave operation, which resulted in the killing of a large number of Zionist enemy troops, showed once again that armed struggle, relying on the principle of seeking martyrdom, is the only way to check the expansionist objectives of the Zionist enemy, and that the liberation of beloved Jeruslam and the occupied lands of Palestine is only possible with machine guns that rely on faith.

The Islamic Republic of Iran, while expressing its appreciation of the combatants of Lebanon's Islamic resistance, who have created epics with their pure blood and who keep the flag of resistance against the zionist enemy flying, once again stresses its all-round support of the armed strugle against the occupying Qods regime, and warns against the compromising motivations which tries, with the support of Arab reaction, to sacrifice the sacred Palestine aspiration to world arrogance and international Zionism.

Envoy to UN Interviewed on Chemical Weapons Issue

LD221610 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 22 Apr 87

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report, Mr Rajai'e Khorassani the permanent representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations, in an exclusive interview with the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran in London, spoke about the dispatch of a delegation by the United Nations to Iran and Iraq to investigate the use of chemical weapons.

According to this report, in this interview he described the UN decision to send two teams to Tehran and Baghdad to investigate the use of chemical weapons as an amazing decision and said: Three months ago the Iraqi regime began again to use chemical weapons against our forces and positions. Since then the mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran at the United Nations has submitted more than 10 requests to the secretary general and asked for a team to be sent to inspect the incidents of the use of chemical weapons; but at no time did it receive a positive response.

Iran's representative to the United Nations said: So far, no request has been submitted by Iraq to the UN Secretariat. Only a short while ago, by submitting a false report to the United Nations, the Iraqi regime claimed that the Islamic Republic of Iran has used a chemical called phosgene which is basically an unstable chemical which dissolves after being released in the air and which leaves no trace.

He added: Iraq can never prove her claim because thus far Iran has not used chemical weapons. However, we have repeatedly announced that if the United Nations does not take steps to prevent the crimes of the Iraqi regime, the Islamic Republic of Iran will be forced to retaliate in kind, and will officially announce it.

On the other hand, Mr Rajai'e Khorassani added: A number of Iraqi POWs who have been involved in the use of chemical weapons have announced that the Iraqi regime has repeatedly bombed the positions of her own troops; because of the proximity of the front lines, sometimes some of their forces in front of us have been bombed and injured. It should be said that the reason for sending a UN team to Iraq is the existence of some hostile elements within that organization who have forced that organization to adopt such a generous attitude toward the tyrant, while it has frequently ignored many requests from us who have been subjected to this tyranny. The United Nations, especially the Security Council, is taking the wrong approach on this issue.

On whether or not one can protest against this UN measure he said: Because sending such delegations is basically outside the scope of the UN Charter, and because when the UN secretary general received sufficient evidence of the use of chemical weapons by the Iraqi regime he personally made a commitment that if their use was repeated he would send a team to Iran, then one cannot make an official protest regarding this matter.

Nevertheless, although that commitment was not based on the UN Charter, it can on its own be subjected to certain laws and practices. We say that if the Iraqi regime claims the Islamic Republic of Iran has used chemical weapons, then that regime should request in writing a UN team be sent. However, as Iraq does not have any proof, it does not make a written request. As the United Nations does not have an impartial stance toward the war imposed by Iraq on Iran, it has itself proposed that the Iraqi regime send a team, and we protest this action on moral grounds. We say: Why have the feelings of the secretary general been hurt because nine people were injured, and by the Iraqi regime itself? Many people were killed or wounded among the forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran due to the use of chemical weapons over the past few years without eliciting a response from the UN secretary general. In our view, this action, especially the position adopted by the United Nations, is contrary to UN judicial practice, the traditions of the secretary general, and is tantamount to trampling on the mediatory role and impartiality of that organization.

According to this report, at the end of this interview the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations said: Although we possess very strong proof about Iraqi use of chemical weapons against the forces of Islam, and although the Iraqi regime does not possess any proof of its claim, one cannot yet foresee what the result of sending these teams would be. However, we once again announce: If the international organization does not take any steps in putting an end to the crimes of the Iraqi regime, we will be forced to retaliate in kind, and in that case we will certainly announce it.

UN Group Arrives To Investigate

LD231224 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Text] The members of the United Nations team who arrived in Tehran last night to investigate the use of chemical weapons by Iraq met Foreign Minister Velayati this morning. In this meeting, the foreign minister, explaining the use of chemical weapons by the Iraqi regime, said that the Iraqi regime has repeatedly used chemical weapons. The United Nations has sent several teams to Iran, and the use of chemical weapons by Iraq has been confirmed by these teams. Unfortunately, this has had no effect on them. In our view, the United Nations should take some practical steps to prevent the Zionist Iraqi Government from committing such war crimes.

Mr Velayati added: There are various reports and documents showing Iraq possesses plants and installations for manufacturing chemical weapons. In view of the United Nations' duty to protect the 1925 Geneva Convention, the spirit of that convention demands this be investigated and any facilities involving these forbidden weapons closed.

This report says the members of the team sent by the United Nations will visit a number of hospitals in Tehran today where many chemical weapons victims are hospitalized. After preparing a report, the team will depart for the war fronts.

Ayatollah Montazeri Meets With Karrubi, Others

LD222336 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 22 Apr 87

[Text] Mr Karrubi, the imam's representative and supervisor of the Islamic Revolution Martyrs Foundation, yesterday met deputy leader Grand Ayatollah Montazeri. Karrubi was accompanied by foundation officials from throughout the country; a group of families of Lebanese martyrs and of Lebanese Hizballah combatants; a group of political-ideological officials of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps; a group of sister-members of Najafabad's Fatimiyah and Zahra'iyah; and a group of people from various sections of the populace.

During the meeting Montazeri commended the Islamic Revolution Martyrs Foundation for bringing under its protective umbrella a group of families of Lebanese martyrs. He said: What is of interest to us is not land or geographical territory. All we are interested in is Islam. Wherever Muslims live they are still a single ummah. On that basis, the families of martyrs from Lebanon, Afghanistan, and other countries belong to all Muslims. Esteemed officials of the Martyrs Foundation should try to devote greater attention to the emotional and psychological aspects of the families of martyrs; they should not confine their efforts to material matters alone. The esteemed families of martyrs should also give the utmost cooperation to those serving them in the martyr foundation.

Grand Ayatollah Montazeri stressed: When we hear a number of Muslims and ulema have been thrown into jail, and are being tortured in Tunisia because of Islam, or a group of Islamic ulema is being threatened with execution on charges of wanted Islam, or in Egypt, Iraq, and other countries Muslims are being rolled in blood and dust, in such circumstances we have no right to remain silent and be indifferent. We should regard their problems as our own, for there is no question of geographical differences, race, or color in Islam. What binds Muslims is Islam, nothing else.

The deputy leader said: Despite the fact that Islamic Iran has called on Iran's neighboring countries, some of the Persian Gulf littoral states, to be harmonious; that it has time and again declared it has no design on any country's soil; that our war is against blasphemy and the Ba'thist rule, which is doing mischief in the region; and that our war is against Israel, which has been created in the heart of Islamic countries by satans and superpowers in order to weaken Islam and Muslims, nevertheless some of the Persian Gulf littoral states, who claim to be Muslims, instead of stretching their hands of brotherhood toward Iran, one day go to America and another day to the Soviet Union. They lease ships from them and abjectly request entry for American and Soviet fleets into the Persian Gulf. What they are doing is similar to what the Jews of Medina did at the time of the most noble prophet — may God's salutations and benedictions be upon him and his scion — when they sided with the infidels against Islam and Muslims.

The region's reactionaries want to drag the superpowers into the Persian Gulf in order to prevent Islam and Islamic fundamentalism, as they put it, from spreading into other countries. They are soldiers of satan and they are following satan.

Grand Ayatollah Montazeri stressed: When you hear Arab countries talk about Palestine, it is merely a political game. Palestine will never be liberated through political games. The territories that have been seized from Muslims by force can be regained only through strength. If the Muslims unite and become harmonious with one another they can do anything. When the Islamic government delivers itself of the evil of the Ba'thist rule, God willing, then all Muslims should come together against the usurping Israeli Government. They should be convinced that Israel will be defeated. If God wants through a miracle to destroy Zionism and the Iraqi Ba'th Party, and to eliminate Saddam and Israel, He can do so. But God is not intending to do miracles.

He added: Brother political-ideological officers in the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps should strive to maintain a spirit of sincerity and honesty which exists among brother corpsmen. They should know that an Islam devoid of jihad, defense, liberty, and self-sacrifice is Islam only as a slogan, not as a fundamental Islam. At this crucial juncture in history, when the Islamic revolution has grown saplings in Iran, it is appropriate for all Muslims to become harmonious, maintain their faith, and make sacrifices. They should be convinced of victory.

The deputy leader expressed his thanks to those who organized the ceremonies marking the martyrdom of martyr Professor Motahhari. He said: The late Motahhari is one of the distinguished figures of Islam and of Iran. He is a source of pride for martyrs. That distinguished martyr's books are rich in every respect. The people, youth in particular, should study them and benefit from them. Martyr Motahhari, from the standpoint of piety, righteousness, and simplicity, was a model. His sincerity, loyalty, his spirit of scholarship, piety, and righteousness were factors that enabled him to influence his environment. The environment never influenced him. It is most appropraite to pay tribute to that esteemed scholar. Some of his books should be used as school textbooks.

In conclusion, Grand Ayatollah Montazeri prayed for victory by the combatants of Islam in Iran, Lebanon, Palestine, and Afghanistan, and for the imam of the ummah's health and long life.

Official Visits Hospitalized Syrian Oil Minister

LD221700 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 22 Apr 87

[Text] Following the hospitalization of the Syrian oil minister for an emergency appendectomy in a Tehran hospital Mir Salim, chief adviser to President Khamene'i, visited the Syrian oil minister this afternoon on behalf of the president of the republic.

Rahmani Announces Dispatch of Fighters to Fronts

LD222106 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 22 Apr 87

[Text] Rahmani, the official in charge of the Mobilization of the Oppressed, this morning in a radio and television news conference announced:

During the first half of the month of Ordibehesht [the month beginning 21 April] we shall have two dispatches of fighters to the battlefronts from all over the country, which will comprise the second phase of the forces of the Lord of the Age [sepah-e sahib al-zaman] and the special dispatch of workers and government employees on the occasion of 1 May, the international Labor Day.

He added: On the occasion of international Labor Day, we have made extensive plans for the dispatch of workers. More than 60 battalions of workers and employees will leave for the battlefronts on that day.

Concerning the mobilization of workers and employees on the basis of a government circular about providing training for 5 percent of workers and employees, the official in charge of the Mobilization of the Oppressed said:

During the past 8 months, 250,000 people received military training, and 2,800 centers for the mobilization of workers and employees were set up in working units and government organizations.

He added: Following the first phase of the dispatch of the forces of the Lord of the Age, in view of the continuation of extensive operations, great victories, and decisive blows which were delivered to the declining enemy, special plans are being made according to which during the second phase of the dispatch of the forces of the Lord of the Age, a large number of the mobilization forces from all over the country will leave for the battlefronts of the imposed war from 29 April to 5 May.

All the provinces have expressed their readiness to take part in this dispatch.

In view of the coincidence of this dispatch with the holy month of Ramadan, we hope that the dispatch of those forces will result in great victories for the Islamic revolution.

Joint Staff Details Clashes, Casualties for 21 Apr

LD221908 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 22 Apr 87

[Text] According to a report by the Joint Staff of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Armed Forces, the self-sacrificing combatants of the ground forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran yesterday, in the operational sectors of the northwest, continued their defensive operations and the task of fortifying their positions while maintaining superiority of fire and full control.

By dispatching patrol and ambush units to sensitive and targeted points, and by executing artillery and mixed heavy and light weaponry fire on the positions and fortifications of the Saddamists, they set ablaze one vehicle, several squad and single trenches, and one supply axis of the enemy, killing or wounding a number of enemy troops.

In other operational sectors of the northwest yesterday, air intrusions by the enemy were neutralized on five occasions by the heavy anti-aircraft fire of units of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Air Force. The mighty combatants of Islam, in the western operational sectors, continued their defensive operations and returning fire, set ablaze one tank, one vehicle, and one ammunition dump of the Iraqi Ba'thist Army. They destroyed several weapons' emplacements, and succeeded in killing or wounding a number of mercenary enemy troops.

In the southern operational sector, Islam's forces, while protecting their positions, executed retaliatory fire on the enemy's positions, inflicting some losses and casualties on the disintegrating Iraqi Army.

In the Chazabeh operational sector, heavy and full-volumed fire by the combatants of Islam smashed the Saddamists' motorized exercise. Their vehicles were damaged and the enemy lost its decisionmaking powers.

In yesterday's operations, the Gendarmerie combatants returned fire on the positions and units of the Iraqis, creating confusion in their engineering and combat activities, destroying one command vehicle, five squad and single trenches belonging to them, and killing or wounding a number of Iraqi troops.

AFP: Rebels Claim Ambush Kills 70 IRGC Troops

AU231024 Paris AFP in English 1021 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Text] Paris, April 23 (AFP) — Iranian rebels killed 70 government troops and wounded 45 in an ambush in northwestern Iran last Sunday, the Iranian Mojahedin of the People organization announced here on Thursday.

The Mojahedin's bureau in Anvers-sur-Oise, a town west of Paris, said in a statement that their fighters ambushed about 500 Iranian Pasdarans (revolutionary guards) travelling in motorized columns on a mountain south of the Iranian border town of Baneh.

The Iranian troops had been sent to that Kurdistan area in an operation code-named Nasr (victory) 1, the statement said.

The Mojahedin, who are backed by Iraq, had "precise" information about the troops' itinerary, the statement said, and had taken their positions on a mountain facing Mount Sorku at dawn Sunday.

The clash lasted for several hours, the statement said, adding that the government troops were scattered and a large part of their weaponry destroyed.

Mojahedin leader Mas'ud Rajavi directs armed operations inside Iran from the Iraqi border. He was last year expelled from France to Iraq.

VII. WESTERN EUROPE DAILY REPORT	Contents unchanged
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